
SABBIA GALLERY

609 Elizabeth Street REDFERN NSW 2016 AUSTRALIA . PO Box 1126 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012
www.sabbiagallery.com galler@sabbiagallery.com

TJUNKAYA TAPAYA OAM

Birth Date	1947
Birth Place	Attila (Mt Connor)
Language	Pitjantjatjara
Community	Pukatja, SA
Region	Pukatja Community, APY Lands
Mother's Country	Mann Ranges, SA/NT

Tjunkaya grew up at the Ernabella Mission. In mission days, the building which is now the art centre was originally used as a food hall by the missionaries. In 1948 it became the Craft Room, where the first work was by women, spinning wool and rug making.

Most of the senior artists painting on the APY Lands today have passed through this building across more than one of its incarnations. Tjunkaya began work in the Craft Room making weavings, later excelling in the medium of batik, and became one of the outstanding artists with work in several public collections. Her work was featured on the cover of Judith Ryan's 'Across the Desert: Aboriginal Batik from Central Australia.'

Tjunkaya also works in ceramics, tjanpi, punu, print making, spinning and mukata making and her work in these mediums has been seen in numerous exhibitions in Australia and internationally since 1971, in public and private galleries. Her works are held in many national and international collections, including the National Museum of Scotland, National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia and the Museum of Ethnology, Osaka.

Since 2015, Tjunkaya has chosen to concentrate on painting and tjanpi sculpture. This focus has seen her become one of the most in demand female artists on the APY Lands and increasingly recognised in these two mediums. In 2010 and 2011 she was collected by Artbank, and in 2011 and 2012 selected as a finalist in the Togart Contemporary Art Award. In 2012 her tjulpu (bird) tjanpi sculptures were selected for exhibition in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (the Telstras). 2011 marked the commencement of Tjunkaya's 5th decade of working at Ernabella Arts. Her first solo show was in 2012 at Alcaston Gallery in Melbourne, where Tjunkaya exhibited a mix of paintings and tjanpi sculpture.

She was the Deputy Chair of the art centre and the leader of the Nintintjaku Project, an inter-generational teaching project working with Ernabella Anangu School and the Ernabella NPY youth team. She has also recently recommenced work in the ceramics studio, exhibiting ceramics again for the first time in a number of years. Tjunkaya is also a prolific writer in Pitjantjatjara. She is currently developing a bi-lingual children's book. She also has essays published in a number of exhibition catalogues, including the Desert Mob 2017 catalogue and the catalogue for the 2017 Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

In 2016 Tjunkaya took part in a collaborative project, a tjanpi (woven) sculpture called Minyma Tjirilyanya Ngaltujara Pikatjara (Echidna Woman Hurt and Sick). This tells an ancient story of the Echidna Woman. This work was listed as a finalist in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award.

In 2018 Tjunkaya's life's work as a representative for her people, an artist and a writer were recognised and she received the Gladys Elphick Award for Lifetime Achievement.

In 2020 Tjunkaya was awarded an Order of Australia, General Division in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Solo Exhibitions

2012 Nintinjaku - teaching, showing, passing on - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC

Group Exhibitions

2021 Ananyi Nyurakutu- Going Home - Artitja Fine Art Gallery, South Fremantle, WA

2020 Always Was, Always Will be - McCulloch and McCulloch, Everywhen Artspace, VIC
Pattern and Place - Metro Arts, Queensland
Cultural Connections: the gift of story - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle
Tarnarhi Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art: Open Hands - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
Spring Salon Art - Artitja Fine Art, York, WA
Nganampa Tjukurpa Ananyi Wilurara (Our Stories Going West) - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
Nganampa Tjukurpa Ananyi Kakarara (Our Stories Going East) - Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney, NSW
Flying Colours - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT

2019 Wanapari - in a line, following one another - JamFactory Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide, VIC
ReGeneration: Showing, teaching, passing down. - Everywhen Space, McCulloch and McCulloch, VIC
Desert Mob 2019 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
Desert Colour featuring Ernabella ceramics - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT

2018 Offen für Kunst - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
Desert Mob 2018 - Araluen Art Centre
Knowing Country - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle

2017 In These Hands: Mara Nyangangka - Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
FINALISTS. 1997 – 2017 - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
Continuing Culture - Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle, WA
Desert Mob 2017 - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
Our Country in Clay - Nomad Art, Darwin NT
Ngura Kutjupa, Walytja Kutju: Different communities, one family - Tangentyere Artists, Alice Springs, NT
Relative Colours - Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney, NSW

2016 Nganampa Kililpil: Our Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
Inheritance - Salt Contemporary, Queenscliff, VIC
Point of difference - Desert to the Sea - Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle, WA
All About Colour, Summer Show + Art Parade - McCulloch & McCulloch/Salt Contemporary Art

2015 Tjukurpa Kunpu / Strong Culture: HOLIDAY SHOW 2015-2016 - Harvey Art Projects, USA
Dots, Dots, Dots und die Punkte des Holzwurms - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
Ausblick – Einblick - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
art Karlsruhe 2015 - Karlsruhe, Germany
Desert Colour - Talapai Gallery, Alice Springs NT
NGANAMPA NGURA, NGANAMPA TJUKURPA – Our Land, Our Stories - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle
Kuruntu mukuringkula kulira palyantja (Stories straight from the heart) - Short Street Gallery, Broome
Bold and the Beautiful - Talapi, Alice Springs

2014 PRO COMMUNITY – Eastern APY Lands - touring exhibition ARTKELCH @ ARTKELCH, Freiburg, @ Staatliches
Völkerkundemuseum, München, @ ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge, Schorndorf, @ Fabrik der Künste, Hamburg und @
Draenert Orangerie, Immenstaad (Lake Constance), Germany
art Karlsruhe 2014 - ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe 2014, Karlsruhe, Germany
Masters: Interpretation of Land, McCulloch & McCulloch/Salt Contemporary Art, - Queenscliff, Vic
Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre
Spring Salon + Art Parade McCulloch & McCulloch - Shoreham Victoria
Pilanypa - Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
Autumn Salon + Art Parade, McCulloch & McCulloch - Shoreham Victoria
Bold and the Beautiful - Talapi, Alice Springs
Eastern APY Lands: ArtKelch - Touring Freiburg, Munich, Hamburg and Bodensee, Germany
The Summer Collectors Show, McCulloch & McCulloch - Shoreham Victoria

2013 Tjukurpa Nganampa Kunpu Kanyintjaku: Keeping Our Stories Strong - Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
A Salon Show for Indigenous Literacy, McCulloch & McCulloch - DMCP Media, Leichhardt, NSW, 2013
Heartland. Contemporary Art from South Australia - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
ReGeneration: established & emerging talents of Indigenous Art - McCulloch & McCulloch, Shoreham, VIC
Nyingga: The Cold Time of the Year - Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
String Theory: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
Australian Vision, NAIDOC 2013 - Australian High Commission, Singapore

- 2012 Kapi Ukalinganyi - Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
 Ngayuku Ngura, Ngayuku Tjukurpa - SA Museum, Adelaide SA
 Tjamuku Kamiku Tjukurpa - Outstation Gallery, Darwin NT
 Indigenous Ceramic Art Award - Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton VIC
 Deadly: in-between heaven and hell - Tandanya, Adelaide SA
 Tjukurpa Mulapa (True Stories) - Redot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
 Togart Contemporary Art Award - Chan Contemporary Art Space, Darwin NT
 NATSIAAs - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
 Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre, 2012
- 2011 Ngura Kutju, Tjukurpa Pulkatjara - Short St Gallery, Broome WA
 Tjukurpa nyangatja ngananala unngu ngaranya - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW
 Our Mob 2010 On Tour - National travelling exhibition
 Ernabella Undiscovered - Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River WA
 Togart Contemporary Art Award - Chan Contemporary Arts Space, Darwin NT
 Ernabella Arts Kuwari - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
 The Kings School Art Prize 2011 - The Kings School, Parramatta NSW
 Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
 We Know our Land, We Keep our Land - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2010 Ngura Nganampa (Our Country) - Outstation Gallery, Darwin NT
 Our Mob - Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide SA
 Recent Paintings: Ernabella Arts - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
 Kayili and Ernabella 2010 - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW
 Ara irititja munu ara kuwaritja Ernabella-la - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
 Ngura Nganampa (Our Country) - JamFactory, Adelaide SA
 Desert Mob - Araluen Centre, Alice Springs NT
 Womens Exhibition - Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth WA
- 2009 Ernabella Ceramics - Birrung Gallery, Sydney, NSW (Ceramics Triennial)
- 2008 Anangu Backyard - Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
 Kiti Art: New Batik from Ernabella - Fabric of Life, Adelaide Fringe Festival, Adelaide, SA
 Nganampa warka wiru (Our work is beautiful) - Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW
 Across the Desert: Aboriginal Batik from Central Australia - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria
 Desert Mob - Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2007 Desert Diversity - Flinders Lane Gallery, Adelaide, SA
 Visions of Country - Seymour College, Adelaide, SA
 Divas of the Desert - Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT
 Desert Mob - Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs, NT
 A Way of Seeing - Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW
 Australian Contemporary - New works from Ernabella, Hermannsburg and Tiwi Islands - SOFA, Chicago, USA
 Ernabella - A Collection of New Works - Australia Dreaming Art, Melbourne, Victoria
- 2006 Let the Earth Speak - Fabric of Life, Adelaide, SA
 Homeland Heartland - Jam Factory Contemporary Craft & Design, Adelaide, SA
- 1998 Australian Girls Own Gallery (AGOG) - Canberra, ACT
 Threefold: An exhibition in three parts for Shift - Canberra School of Art, Canberra, NT
 Warka Irititja munu Kuwari Kutu (Work from the Past and Present): A Celebration of Fifty years of Ernabella Arts - Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
 Walka Ernabella Palyantja (Desgins made in Ernabella) - Spark Gallery, Wollongong University, NSW
- 1997 Purnululu - Raintree Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery, Darwin
 Ernabella Walka/Ernabella Design - Mutitjulu Cultural Centre, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, NT
- 1996 Painting the Land - National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT (then touring until 1999)
- 1994 Ernabellaku: Tjukurpa wiru, Nganampa tjukurpa - Museum Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia
 Peter Ballas Gallery - Brisbane, QLD
- 1993 The Childrens Gift - Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
 Lizards, Snakes & Cattle Dogs - Australian Contemporary Textiles - German Textile Museum, Krefeld, Germany
- 1989 Wirutjuta - Araluen Art Centre for Culture and Entertainment, Alice Springs, NT
- 1988 Texas International Festival - Texas, USA
 Karnta - Throughout South-East Asia
- 1986 Textiles of the Commonwealth (Touring exhibition) - UK
- 1976 Grace Bros - Chatswood - Sydney, NSW (also 1977 & 1982)
- 1971 Argyle Arts Centre - Sydney, NSW

Bibliography

- 2012 Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Penny Watson, Macmillan
Tjanpi Desert Weavers Macmillan Mini-Art Series #19
Deadly: In-between Heaven and Hell pp 62-71 Tjanpi Desert Weavers Paarpakani: Tjanpi Desert Weavers
Take Flight, Fulvia Mantelli and Renee Johnson
- 2008 Across the Desert: Aboriginal Batik from Central Australia Judith Ryan, NGV (artists work on cover and
featured inside)
- 2012 Togart Contemporary Art Award Catalogue, p.90
- 2011 Threads. Contemporary Textiles and the Social Fabric. Bruce McLean, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of
Modern Art p.133
- 2009 Bravura. 21st Century Australian Craft. Robert Reason, Art Gallery of South Australia, p.2, p.28
- 2011 2011 Indigenous Ceramic Art Award, Shepparton Art Museum, p.40-41
- 2013 Togart Contemporary Art Award Prof. Sasha Grishin, Craft Arts International No.87,p.3
- 2011 Togart Contemporary Art Award Catalogue
- 2014 Highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collection, Nici Cumpston, Art Gallery of South Australia, p 73
ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Eastern APY Lands, exhibition catalogue Pro Community 2014, Freiburg, Germany

Awards

- 2021 Finalist, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2018 Perpetual Gladys Elphick Award (lifetime achievement)
- 2016 Finalist (collaborative), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2009 Me and My Toyota Art Prize - Toyota Australia

Collections

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, SA
ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, COLLABORATIVE TJANPI WORK, 2012
ARTBANK, 2010, 2011
LEEUWIN ESTATE, 2012
MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY, OSAKA, JAPAN
NATIONAL GALLERY AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA, ACT
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, 2004
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND, UK
NORTHERN TERRITORY CRAFTS COUNCIL, DARWIN, NT
QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY, BRISBANE, QLD
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA, 2014
ARALUEN ARTS CENTRE
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER STUDIES (AIATSIS), CANBERRA ACT
JANET HOLMES À COURT COLLECTION

Ernabella Arts Incorporated

Ernabella Arts Inc. is a community based artists' association located on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in the north-west of South Australia. The centre began in 1948, and was incorporated in 1974, firstly as Ernabella and Fregon Arts Inc. and then in 1975 as Ernabella Arts Incorporated

Mission Statement

Ernabella Arts nyangangka minyma pampa munu wati tjilpi, kungkawara munu yangupala tjuta warkarinyi nganampa arts-pangka nganana mukuringkula wangkaringi nganampa warka pulkaringkula kunpuringkula community nganampa wiru titutjura ngaranytjaku.

Ernabella Arts is a place where many women and men elders and young women and men practice and develop our art, in order to sustain, support and promote our cultural heritage, and to improve the lifestyle of our community's members